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Navy Awards \$27.6 Million Contract for Development of Boeing's Growler

Congressman Akin is encouraged by further Navy commitment to new electronic warfare aircraft

WASHINGTON- The Navy has announced the awarding of a \$27.6 million contract for the development of Boeing's E/A-18 G "Growler". The contract is for "analyzing the requirements and identifying risk reduction elements for the transition of the EA-6B jamming and wideband radar receiving and communication receiving capability into the F/A-18F platform." The \$27.6 million contract exceeds what was originally appropriated for FY 2003.

Congressman Akin serves on the House Armed Service Committee and has championed the E/A-18 Growler. The Super Hornet Growler would essentially be a Super Hornet equipped to provide essential radar jamming capability and to electronically counter attempts to attack U.S. aircraft during combat. The Growler would replace the Navy's aging fleet of Prowlers.

Congressman Akin stated that, "the awarding of this contract is very encouraging, and it is becoming increasingly clear that Boeing's Growler will be replacing the aging fleet of Prowlers."

The Bush Administration's proposed budget includes nearly \$570 over the next two years for further research and development with procurement scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2006.

The contract specifies that 21 percent of the risk reduction work will be done at Boeing St. Louis, with 32 percent in Bethpage, N.Y. and 15 percent in El Segundo, California.